

The answer to the problem could best be secured through the enactment of clarifying legislation. A physician, who chooses to act before this has been done, must do so with full knowledge that the consequences could be serious.

Conclusions

For the present it is possible to draw the following conclusions from existing statutes and decisions:

1. Under no circumstance may a vasectomy or salpingectomy be performed upon any person for the reason that he or she may be mentally incompetent, feeble-minded, perverted, or otherwise subject to commitment in a state institution, but in all cases involving such persons the problem must be referred to the State Department of Institutions for whatever action it deems proper.

2. If a female patient who is not within Rule 1, above, requires a salpingectomy in order to *preserve her life or to safeguard her health*, then and only then it is permissible to perform the operation.

3. If a male patient who is not within Rule 1, above, is married and is living with his wife, and if his wife must not become pregnant for the *preservation of her life or health*, then, in order to avoid pregnancy, it may be legally proper to perform a vasectomy.

4. Assuming that a male who is not within Rule 1, above, could require a vasectomy in order to preserve his own life or health, then a vasectomy could properly be performed.

5. Except in the specific instances enumerated in the foregoing rules, the California law is indefinite and uncertain, and offers little protection to a physician who might be called to account before a court and jury, particularly if at the time there existed adverse public opinion.

LETTERS †

Concerning Letters of Appreciation from Station Hospitals of Military Camps in California for Medical Journals:

(COPY)

STATION HOSPITAL
Camp Callan

San Diego 14, California, June 11, 1945.

Postgraduate Committee,
California Medical Association,
San Francisco, California
Attention: George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary
Gentlemen:

We very much appreciate your sending CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE to our hospital, along with the other available medical literature you have indicated in your letter of June 5, 1945.

Small Station Hospitals are restricted in their Library funds and cannot always purchase the medical literature desired to keep the staff abreast of the times.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) FRANK R. MADDISON,
Major, MC, Post Surgeon.

INFIRMARY DIVISION

Mitchell Convalescent Hospital
Camp Lockett, California, June 7, 1945.

California Medical Association,
San Francisco, California
Attention: George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Thank you for your letter of the 5th regarding the shipment of medical journals and books. They will be very gratefully received, for since this hospital is not numbered among the larger ones the supply of these items is rather limited.

Thank you also for the addresses of the three medical libraries: I know that we have men who will wish to make the most use of them.

Upon receipt of the package I will advise you.

Gratefully and fraternally yours,
(Signed) MERLE S. HARMON, Lt. Col. M. C.
Director.

(COPY)

Army Service Forces
Ninth Service Command
FORT ORD ASF REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Office of the Commanding Officer
Fort Ord, California, June 12, 1945.

George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary
C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

May I extend the appreciation and thanks of the medical staff of this ASF Regional Station Hospital for your generous contribution of medical magazines and journals.

It is with appreciation that we accept your offer of being included on your complimentary mailing list for the official publication of the California Medical Association, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The staff members are being officially notified of the availability of medical literature at the addresses of the three medical libraries in California and will, I am sure, take full advantage of this offer.

On behalf of the medical members of the staff of this hospital, I wish to convey to our medical colleagues our sincere thanks.

Sincerely,
(Signed) J. I. SLOAT, Colonel, M.C.
Commanding.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL
Long Beach, California, June 12, 1945.

Postgraduate Committee,
California Medical Association,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sirs:

We wish to thank you for placing us on the complimentary mailing list of your official journal, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and for your contribution of an assortment of medical journals. These have been placed in the medical library for use by our staff.

With many thanks regarding your consideration for the medical officers of our hospital, I am

Cordially yours,
(Signed) C. W. WALTER, Lt. MC, U.S.N.R.
Officer in charge of Medical Library.

(COPY)

AAF REGIONAL STATION HOSPITAL
Office of the Surgeon
Muroc Army Air Field
Muroc, California, June 8, 1945.

Dr. George H. Kress,
Secretary, California Medical Association,
Postgraduate Committee.

My dear Doctor:

Your letter of June 5 offering to send medical litera-